

Original: English

**FTAA - COMMITTEE OF GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PARTICIPATION
OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

COVER SHEET

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Country (ies) / Region (s)	The Hemisphere

Number of Pages	3	Language	English / Spanish
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ISSUES ADDRESSED (Check all that apply)

Agriculture		Subsidies, Antidumping and Countervailing Duties	
Competition Policy		Civil Society	
Dispute Settlement		Electronic Commerce	
Government Procurement	x	Smaller Economies	
Intellectual Property Rights		The FTAA Process	
Investment		Other:	
Market Access			
Services			

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – 2 pages maximum – (see Open Invitation):

AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The workshop reaffirms the government procurement recommendations of the 1998 ABF, and reiterates the need to have an agreement that applies to all goods and services and all countries in the hemisphere.
2. The FTAA members will grant to all goods, services, construction and suppliers in the member countries, treatment that is equally favourable to that granted to their own goods, services, construction and suppliers, subject to exclusions delineated in the 1998 ABF recommendations on government procurement.
3. Transparency in government procurement should include the fullest possible publication/distribution of each country's laws, policies, rules and practices. The following elements were agreed upon:
 - a. Adequate and timely notice
 - b. Neutral standards
 - c. Objective criteria
 - d. Public open bidding
 - e. Award based on the pre-established criteria
 - f. Dispute settlement and bid protest including arbitration.
4. FTAA and sub-regional and bi-lateral agreements may co-exist but not conflict.
5. Value thresholds should be established that balance the need to exclude small purchases but provides opportunities for small and medium-sized firms to bid.
6. In addition to traditional methods, governments should leverage the "Internet". (See business facilitation measures)
7. Consideration should be given to training and accreditation of government officials in procurement procedures.

BUSINESS FACILITATION MEASURES

1. Per Recommendation number three, the following transparency elements should be adopted:
 - a. Adequate and timely notice
 - b. Neutral standards
 - c. Objective criteria
 - d. Public open bidding
 - e. Award based on the pre-established criteria
 - f. Dispute settlement and bid protest including arbitration
2. Government procurement should be made available via the Internet, encompassing: specification, tenders, evaluation criteria, standards and regulations. Each country should establish appropriate access that lists and links the government procurement sites. The goal is to develop a comprehensive data-base which comprises the procurement activity.
3. Consideration should be given to the use of "model" procurement laws developed by UNCITRAL or other inter-governmental bodies.
4. Eliminate the requirement for "consularization" of documentation and similar requirements for bid submittals to government entities.

AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Application of the Agreement to government procurement below the central/national government level was not agreed.

Chair: John T. McCarter, USAA
Vice Chair: Jose Enrique Mejia Ucles, Honduras
Rapporteur: Bob Olivero, Canada
Vice Rapporteur: Francisco Pate, Argentina